

## NOTICE TO GROUNDWATER USERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

### PUBLIC HEARING ON PETITION FOR A TEMPORARY CONTROLLED GROUNDWATER AREA

#### IN THE FOUR CORNERS AREA

A hearing before the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to consider the establishment of a temporary controlled groundwater area will be held at the Gallatin County Courthouse, Community Meeting Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 311 West Main, Bozeman, MT on April 6, 2005 at 7 P.M.

The Four Corners Community Foundation filed petition no. 30011241, for establishment of a temporary controlled groundwater area. The petitioner's basis for the request are: 1) sustainability of the groundwater resource for future development in the area is not well understood, 2) there is a possible indication that some water level decline has occurred and it is not known if this is due to climatic reasons or continued development, 3) some sampling of groundwater within the proposed control area has indicated nitrate concentrations that are higher than the maximum contaminant level of 10 mg/l set by the EPA, 4) provide time to study the aquifer(s) characteristics and make decisions on long term management of the groundwater system.

Designation as a temporary controlled groundwater area may be considered to provide interim controls while studies are conducted. Requested conditions for the proposed area are: 1) perform a comprehensive hydrogeologic study of the area as needed to characterize and quantify the current and future availability of groundwater, 2) Assess the nature and extent of changes in groundwater quality as a function of current and projected beneficial uses in the proposed control area (in cooperation with the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality DEQ), and 3) temporarily close the area to further appropriation of groundwater greater than 35 gallons per minute during the term of a study (2-4 years).

The proposed area is located generally in Sections 34,35 Township 1 South, Range 4 East; Sections 1,2,3,10,11,12,13,14,15,22,23,24,25,26,27,33,34,35,36 Township 2 South, Range 4 East; Sections 18,19,30 Township 2 South, Range 5 East, Gallatin County, Montana. See map for more precise proposed boundary.

All interested persons may present at this hearing evidence or testimony in person, by attorney or other representative, in support or opposition to the granting of the proposal and may be fully heard. The petition, supporting documentation, and the environmental assessment may be viewed at the Department's Bozeman Regional Office and at web site <http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>. Questions concerning this matter should be directed to the Bozeman office at 2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406-586-3136).

The Department makes reasonable accommodation for any disability that may interfere with an individual's ability to attend this hearing. For consideration of any such accommodation, please contact Heather McLaughlin at 406-444-6615 (TTD number 406-444-6873) as soon as possible before the hearing date.